

Faith Based Money for CPC's?

----- Original Message -----

From: "Cassi Sadler" <sad9232@student.waynesburg.edu>

To: <dean@gateway.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2004 8:30 PM

Subject: finances of pregnancy center

Hi!! I am a student at Waynesburg College in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. I was curious about the funding of your Center. I volunteer at a Crisis Pregnancy Center in Waynesburg and I am writing a paper about federal funding for faith based organizations verses relying solely on citizens to do all of the work. I was wondering if you could assist me in this process.

Thanks so much, Cassi Sadler

Gateway's response

Hi Cassi,

Thanks for writing. My thoughts on this are quite one-sided, from the experience I've had in CPC's. The last line in this email says it all: ""We make it abundantly clear in all our materials and conferences that you can't preach on Uncle Sam's dollar." Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Faith-based is a great idea in principle, but it doesn't work in the way that many believed it would. CPC's like Gateway 'step off' is the usual underlying requirements that:

(1) We be open to differing views on abortion i.e. do not stress parenting and adoption and state the reasons why abortion is bad for a woman (examples: post abortion guilt, post abortion physical problems, Biblical prohibitions to abortion, etc)

(2) That contraceptives be a part of our counseling in a 'nondirective' way. We state the dangers of contraceptives, but do not include them as a viable option for unmarried women. Why? Because the Bible speaks of fornication and adultery.

(3) Our Biblical stand to share Christ with each person we see.

Now, Faith Based may not 'require' we leave our beliefs at the door, but, like federal grants, etc., they may exclude us from applying or they may be prejudice in their review of our application.

So far, I haven't seen a reason to apply.

On the Christian Medical and Dental Society website we find this:

Faith-based initiatives - would provide funds for faith-based institutions including those that provide medical care to underserved populations. The Senate removed key provisions of the faith-based CARE Act, but the President has used executive orders to begin to stop government discrimination against faith-based groups. Pres. Bush's executive order and speech.

Abortion Non-Discrimination (S. 1397, HR 3664) - would insure conscience protections for healthcare workers and institutions morally opposed to abortion. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Ben Nelson (D-NE) and Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-9th/Fla.) introduced these bills, which clarify an existing legal protection for health care providers who choose not to participate in abortions. Abortion advocates who favor mandates over conscience protections may find themselves in position of lobbying to shut down critically needed faith-based hospitals.

Distracters think differently: "No direct funding from the faith-based office has gone to a single non-Christian religious organization, whether Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist or Sikh....By my count, Bush has sent more than \$7 million in abstinence dollars to such overtly Christian organizations, and he's sent another \$6.1 million in grants--some as large as \$800,000--to "crisis pregnancy centers," which counsel young women not to abort. These abstinence grants have taken small, volunteer-run organizations and turned them into substantial institutions; one crisis pregnancy center in Boston, A Woman's Concern, received a \$488,000 grant that allowed the group to bump its staff up from two to twelve." Follow the Money / by ESTHER KAPLAN / [from the November 1, 2004 issue]http://www.theocracywatch.org/follow_money_nation_nov1_o4.htm

Below are the texts of two speeches by President Bush on faith-based discrimination, so it's obviously a problem in the real world. The first is from 2001. The second is from 2002.

President Bush Implements Key Elements of his Faith-Based Initiative
Downtown Marriott Hotel Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: December 2002

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks a lot for the warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be back in Philadelphia, a city known for the history that was made here and the spirit of compassion which is found here. I'm honored to spend the time with you all. I thank you for your interest in our country. You love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength. (Applause.) You love your neighbor. (Applause.) And by the works that come from your faith, you are building a more just and generous nation. And we are grateful for your efforts. (Applause.)

I appreciate the tremendous turnout for this White House Conference on Faith-based and Community Initiatives. I think it's a really important conference. Many faiths and many traditions are represented here. Yet we share the same belief that every person in need is a worthy child of God. (Applause.) And we share the same goal: We must bring the hope and healing of faith-based services to more and more Americans.

Government has often been slow to recognize the importance of faith-based and community efforts. That's changing. And more changes are needed. So today, I'm announcing a series of actions to stop the unfair treatment of religious charities by the federal government. (Applause.) If a charity is helping the needy, it should not matter if there is a rabbi on the board, or a cross or a crescent on the wall, or a religious commitment in the charter. The days of discriminating against religious groups just because they are religious are coming to an end. (Applause.)

And I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have traveled here today, Mel Martinez and Ann Veneman. I appreciate the fact that two fine United States Senators from Pennsylvania are here, Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter. I'm honored they have traveled with me to this fine event. (Applause.) I see Congressman Greenwood is with us, as well. Thank you for coming. Anybody else from the Congress? They'll get the message. (Applause.)

I want to thank Mike Brown, who's the Deputy Director of FEMA, who is here. Of course, I want to thank your Mayor, John Street. I appreciate the fact -- (applause) -- I appreciate the very fact that the Mayor understands the importance of encouraging faith-based programs to change the neighborhoods and the lives of the good people of Philadelphia.

I want to thank Cardinal Bevilacqua for coming. Your Eminence, it's good to see you, sir. I want to thank Franklin Graham. I want to thank all the leaders, the generals, the soldiers in the armies of compassion who are here with us today. (Applause.)

Today, I landed Air Force One -- one of the things I try to do is herald the heroes of our society. I met Gary Hobbs, the USA Freedom Corps greeter. He's a former NFL player for, of course, the Eagles, who volunteers as a mentor for disadvantaged children. I want to thank Gary for his support and his service. (Applause.)

Every generation of Americans must rise to its own challenges, and the challenges facing this generation are very clear. We must overcome great dangers to our country, wherever they gather. We're waging a war -- we're waging an unrelenting effort in this war to dismantle a terrorist network which has attacked America.

I have no greater obligation than to protect our country and to defend our freedoms. We will confront outlaw regimes which hate our country and arm to threaten civilization, itself. We have that obligation, to recognize the world changed for America on September the 11th, 2001. Before that date, it

seemed like we could use the oceans to protect us from gathering dangers. We could be confident that nobody could possibly hurt America -- hurt Americans on America soil. And that changed. And, therefore, our government and your leadership must have a realistic assessment of the dangers we have faced and we will face. We have acted, and we will act again, to protect the American people and to keep the peace. (Applause.)

We must also rise to a second challenge facing our country. This great and prosperous land must become a single nation of justice and opportunity. We must continue our advance toward full equality for every citizen, which demands the guarantee of civil rights for all. (Applause.) Any suggestion that the segregated past was acceptable or positive is offensive, and it is wrong. (Applause.)

Recent comments -- recent comments by Senator Lott do not reflect the spirit of our country. (Applause.) He has apologized, and rightly so. Every day our nation was segregated was a day that America was unfaithful to our founding ideals. (Applause.) And the founding ideals of our nation and, in fact, the founding ideals of the political party I represent was, and remains today, the equal dignity and equal rights of every American. (Applause.)

And so the -- and this is the principle that guides my administration. We will not, and we must not, rest until every person of every race believes in the promise of America because they see it in their own eyes, with their own eyes, and they live it and feel it in their own lives.

We have work to do. We must be honest about it. We have got a lot of work to do in this country, because there are pockets of despair in America. (Applause.) There are men and women who doubt the American Dream is meant for them. There are people who face the struggles of illness and old age with no one to help them or pray with them. There are men and women who fight every minute of the day against terrible addictions. There are boys with no family but a gang, and teenage moms who are abandoned and alone. And then there are the children who wonder if anybody loves them.

We've reformed welfare in America to help many, yet welfare policy will not solve the deepest problems of the spirit. (Applause.) Our economy is growing, yet there are some needs that prosperity can never fill. We arrest and convict dangerous criminals; yet building more prisons is no substitute for responsibility and order in our souls. Applause. No government policy can put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when someone, some good soul puts an arm around a neighbor and says, God loves you, and I love, and you can count on us both. (Applause.)

And we find that powerful spirit of compassion in faith-based and community groups across our nation: People giving shelter to the homeless; providing safety for battered women; giving care and comfort to AIDS victims; bringing companionship to lonely seniors. I saw that spirit of compassion earlier today when I visited adults and children involved in a program called Amachi at the Bright Hope Baptist Church right here in Philadelphia. In the Amachi program, good people from more than 50 churches in

this area serve as mentors to the children of prisoners. They share their time and attention. They just serve as a friend.

Most of us find it difficult to imagine the life of a child who has to go through a prison gate to be hugged by their mom or dad. Yet this is the reality for almost a million-and-a-half American boys and girls. They face terrible challenges that no child deserves to face. Without guidance, they have a higher risk of failing in school and committing crimes themselves. The volunteers of Amachi, who are with us here today with the children they are loving, are such wonderful givers of guidance and love.

I'm told that "amachi" is a Western African word that means, "Who knows what God has brought us through this child." That attitude is the inspiration of a good mentoring program. No child is a problem or a burden; every child is a priority and a blessing. (Applause.) That is the message of the almighty God who cares for these, and that is the message carried to the city by the volunteers of Amachi. And I want thank them for being here today. And I want to thank them for their love. And I want to thank them for their example for other Americans to follow.

Faith-based charities work daily miracles because they have idealistic volunteers. They're guided by moral principles. They know the problems of their own communities, and above all, they recognize the dignity of every citizen and the possibilities of every life. These groups and many good charities that are specifically religious have the heart to serve others. Yet many lack the resources they need to meet the needs around them.

They deserve the support of the rest of us. They deserve the support of foundations. They deserve the support of corporate America. (Applause.) They deserve the support of individual donors, of church congregations, of synagogues and mosques. And then deserve, when appropriate, the support of the federal government. (Applause.)

Faith-based groups will never replace government when it comes to helping those in need. Yet government must recognize the power and unique contribution of faith-based groups in every part of our country. And when the federal government gives contracts to private groups to provide social services, religious groups should have an equal chance to compete. (Applause.) When decisions are made on public funding, we should not focus on the religion you practice; we should focus on the results you deliver. (Applause.)

The Amachi program receives 38 percent of its funding from the federal government. My administration has been working for nearly two years to encourage this kind of support to good faith-based programs. And we're making some progress. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, run by Mel, we've changes regulations in eight programs which cover over \$8 billion in grants to encourage competition that includes faith-based groups. We've opened up more than \$1 billion in after-school programs to competition, including faith-based groups. We're reaching out to grassroots community groups and helping them learn the complicated process of grant-making. I see a lot of heads nodding when it comes to complicated process. (Laughter.)

Yet there's a lot to do. In government, we're still fighting old attitudes, habits and rules that discriminate against religious groups for no good purpose. In Iowa, for example, the Victory Center Rescue Mission was told to return grant money to the government because the mission's board of directors was not secular enough. The St. Francis House Homeless Shelter in South Dakota was denied a grant because voluntary prayers were offered before meals. A few years ago in New York, the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty was discouraged from even applying for federal funds because it had the word "Jewish" in its name. These are examples of a larger pattern, a pattern of discrimination. And this discrimination shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the law. I recognize that government has no business endorsing a religious creed, or directly funding religious worship or religious teaching. That is not the business of the government. Yet government can and should support social services provided by religious people, as long as those services go to anyone in need, regardless of their faith. (Applause.) And when government gives that support, charities and faith-based programs should not be forced to change their character or compromise their mission. (Applause.)

And I don't intend to compromise either. (Applause.) I have worked for a faith-based initiative to rally and encourage the armies of compassion. I will continue to work with Congress on this agenda. But the needs of our country are urgent and, as President, I have an authority I intend to use. (Applause.) Many acts of discrimination -- many acts of discrimination against faith-based groups are committed by Executive Branch agencies. And, as the leader of the Executive Branch, I'm going to make some changes, effective today. (Applause.) First, in a few minutes -- you'll be happy to hear -- (laughter) -- I am going to sign an executive order directing all federal agencies to follow the principle of equal treatment in rewarding social service grants. (Applause.) Every person in every government agency will know where the President stands. And every person will have the responsibility to ensure a level playing field for faith-based organizations in federal programs. No funds will be used to directly support inherently religious activities; yet no organization that qualifies for funds will ever be forced to change its identity.

And secondly, I have directed specific action in several federal agencies with a history of discrimination against faith-based groups. FEMA will revise its policy on emergency relief so that religious nonprofit groups can qualify for assistance after disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. (Applause.) HUD and HHS, who provide so much grant money to communities across America, will revise their regulations to reflect the principle of nondiscrimination. (Applause.) In addition, we're issuing a guidebook which you've received. The book explains in plain English -- (laughter) -- how faith-based groups can qualify for government grants. It gives guidance on what you can and cannot do with taxpayers' money. We're going to distribute this guidebook widely. We will continue to hold regional conferences like this one all around the United States of America. The rules for dealing with the government are clear, and we want more and more faith-based charities to become partners in our efforts, our unyielding efforts to change America one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. (Applause.)

Through all these actions, I hope that every faith-based group in America, the social entrepreneurs of America, understand that this government respects your work and we respect the motivation behind your work. We do not want you to become carbon copies of public programs. (Applause.) We want you to follow your heart. We want you to follow the word. We want you to do the works of kindness and mercy you are called upon to do. (Applause.) Thank you.

For too long, for too long, some in government believed there was no room for faith in the public square. AUDIENCE MEMBER: Preach on, brother! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I guess they've forgotten the history of this great country. People of faith led the struggle against slavery. People of faith fought against child labor. People of faith worked for women's equality and civil rights. Every expansion of justice in American history received inspiration from men and women of moral conviction and religious belief. And in America today, people of faith are waging a determined campaign against need and suffering.

When government discriminates against religious groups, it is not the groups that suffer most. The loss comes to the hungry who don't get fed, to the addicts who don't get help, to the children who drift toward self-destruction. For the sake of so many brothers and sisters in needs, we must and we will support the armies of compassion in America. (Applause.)

The steps we take today will help clear away a legacy of discrimination against faith-based charities. In the new year, I will announce further initiatives to help community groups that serve their neighbors.

Our nation needs more mentors. Particularly, mentors for children whose mom or dad is in prison. (Applause.) Our nation needs more centers to treat addiction. Our nation must recognize that if we can change a heart, we're more than likely to change someone's habits, and addiction on drugs and alcohol. (Applause.) Instead of building towering bureaucracies, government should be finding new and creative ways to support local efforts.

I call this approach compassionate conservatism. And in my State of the Union message, I will ask members of both political parties to move forward with me on this vision. By promoting the compassion of our people, by promoting the great strength of America, we will bring new hope to neighborhoods all across this land.

You know something about America? We meet every challenge that faces our country. That's why I'm so optimistic about our future. And we will answer the call of our times. We will defend our freedoms, and we will lead the world toward peace. And we will unite America behind the great goals of justice and compassion.

In the work of compassion, it is not the people in government who are the experts; the

people in this room are the experts. (Applause.) The people in this room are helping lead America to a better day. You just need to know that. And you need to know that I am incredibly grateful for what you do. There is a saying, nobody can teach you how to be a good servant of God, you have to learn it on the job. (Applause.) And you are doing that job so incredibly well. AUDIENCE MEMBER: And you are, too! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I appreciate your commitment -- I appreciate your commitment. I appreciate your service. I appreciate your love. And now I'm proud to sign this executive order providing equal treatment for faith-based charities all across the greatest land on the face of the Earth, the United States of America. May God bless you all.

Weblog: Here Comes (Yawn) the Senate Faith-Based Initiative Bill
Compiled by Ted Olsen posted 02/06/2002

Senate has faith-based initiative bill; Bush will back itThe White House and Senate leaders have agreed on a faith-based initiative bill, The Washington Post reports today. "In talks with the senators, the White House jettisoned the controversial elements of the legislation, provisions that would have made it easier for religious groups to compete for government grants without compromising their beliefs," reports Dana Milbank. But wasn't making it easier for religious groups to compete as religious groups the whole point of Bush's faith-based initiative? "As long as there are secular alternatives, faith-based charities should be able to compete for funding on an equal basis, and in a manner that does not cause them to sacrifice their mission," Bush said in announcing the initiative a year ago. Does he still believe this?

Remarks by the President in Announcement of the Faith-Based Initiative Indian Treaty Room Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building January 2001

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Thank you all for coming. I take great joy in making this announcement. It's going to be one of the most important initiatives that my administration not only discusses, but implements.

First, it's good to have so many groups represented here -- religious and non-religious; Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and Muslim; foundations and other non-profits. I want to thank you all for coming.

This is a collection of some of the finest America has got to offer -- people who lead with their hearts, and in turn, have changed the communities in which they live for the better. This meeting is a picture of the strength and diversity and compassion of our country. This is a diverse group, but we share things in common. They provide more than practical help to people in need. They touch and change hearts. And for this, America is deeply appreciative.

Everyone in this room knows firsthand that there are still deep needs and real suffering in the shadow of America's affluence. Problems like addiction and abandonment and gang violence, domestic violence, mental illness and homelessness. We are called by conscience to respond.

As I said in my inaugural address, compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. It is more than the calling of politicians; it is the calling of citizens. It is citizens who turn mean streets into good neighborhoods. It is citizens who turn cold cities into real communities.

It is one of the great goals of my administration to invigorate the spirit of involvement and citizenship. We will encourage faith-based and community programs without changing their mission. We will help all in their work to change hearts while keeping a commitment to pluralism.

I approach this goal with some basic principles: Government has important responsibilities for public health or public order and civil rights. Yet government -- and government will never be replaced by charities and community groups. Yet when we see social needs in America, my administration will look first to faith-based programs and community groups, which have proven their power to save and change lives. We will not fund the religious activities of any group, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them.

As long as there are secular alternatives, faith-based charities should be able to compete for funding on an equal basis, and in a manner that does not cause them to sacrifice their mission. And we will make sure that help goes to large organizations and to small ones as well. We value large organizations with generations of experience. We also value neighborhood healers, who have only the scars and testimony of their own experience.

Tomorrow I will begin turning these principles into a legislative agenda. I will send to Congress a series of ideas and proposals. Today, I want to raise the priority and profile of these issues within my own administration. I want to ensure that faith-based and community groups will always have a place at the table in our deliberations.

In a few moments, I will sign two executive orders. The first executive order will create a new office, called the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. The head of this office will report directly to me and be charged with important responsibilities. He will oversee our initiatives on this issue. He will make sure our government, where it works with private groups, is fair and supportive. And he will highlight groups as national models so others can learn from them.

The second executive order will clear away the bureaucratic barriers in several important agencies that make private groups hesitate to work with government. It will establish centers in five agencies -- Justice, HUD, HHS, Labor and Education -- to ensure greater cooperation

between the government and the independent sector. These centers will report back on regulatory barriers to working with non-profit groups, and make recommendations on how those barriers can be removed.

I have put this broad effort into the hands of two exceptional people -- first, Steve Goldsmith, known as one of the most innovative mayors in America, who pioneered ways to promote community efforts. He will continue to advise me on these issues. And I have asked Steve to serve on the board of the Corporation for National Service.

This organization has done some good work in mobilizing volunteers of all ages. I've asked Steve to report to me on how we can make the corporation do better, and to get help where it's most needed.

And secondly, Professor John Dilulio will head the new office I am announcing today. He is one of the most influential social entrepreneurs in America. I can't tell you how honored I am for him to leave his post in academia to join us. He is the author of a respected textbook on American government. He has a servant's heart on the issues that we will confront. He's worked with disadvantaged children. He has been a major force in mobilizing the city of Philadelphia to support faith-based and community groups.

It's a fantastic team. I'm honored to have them on my team. I look forward to hearing from them, as well as I look forward to working with the people in this room and the social entrepreneurs all across America who have heard the universal call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves; to exist and work hard, not out of the love of money, but out of the love of their fellow human beings. I'm absolutely convinced the great fabric of the nation exists in neighborhoods, amongst unsung heroes who do heroic acts on a daily and hourly basis. It's the fabric of the country that makes America unique. It is -- the power of promise that makes the future so promising is the power of the missions that stand behind me.

This is an effort that will be an effort from, now the second week of my administration to the last week of my administration, because I am confident that this initiative, when fully implemented, will help us realize the dream that America, its hopes, its promise, its greatness, will extend its reach throughout every single neighborhood, all across the land. And now it is my honor to sign the two executive orders. (Applause.)

Cassi, I hope all this helps. Either way we look at it, here is the bottom line, as reported in "Indeed, only about \$200 million has been cleared nationally for next year for new programs and grants that are part of the initiative — a relatively small amount, considering the billions the government spends on social services." "Studies show religious organizations that aren't receiving government money generally aren't interested in pursuing it. "

*** Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, says his office has been holding workshops across the country geared to teach faith and community groups how to apply for grants.

The success of their efforts, Towey said, is not "simply measured in (additional) dollars and cents. The faith-based initiative's about removing barriers" that prevent or discourage religious groups from competing for that money.

Towey also emphasizes to recipients that they cannot proselytize, even though the administration recently changed a regulation for a national job-training program, allowing faith-based groups to use sacred texts such as the Bible as inspirational stories. "We make it abundantly clear in all our materials and conferences that you can't preach on Uncle Sam's dollar." By Janet I. Tu Seattle Times staff reporter

Cassi,

Here is an additional thought from the Heritage Foundation Analysis of the CARE Act

THE SENATE'S RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S FAITH-BASED AGENDA:
AN ANALYSIS OF THE CARE ACT
NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION
DRAFT

Joseph Loconte and William Beach

<http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:AAJY1fB0-y4J:www.pgdc.net/BRAF/NAL-20020522020821+christian+crisis+pregnancy+centers+and+faith+based+initiatives&hl=en>

"Under Title VII of the CARE Act, for example, Congress would create a separate funding stream for maternity group homes and authorize \$33 million in additional money.^[22] Although the Title III provisions of the bill -- the "equal treatment of nongovernmental providers" -- would apply to maternity-home funding, the money would not be governed by existing charitable choice law. This would present a problem, since churches or other religious institutions support the vast majority of maternity homes.^[23] Once they accept federal support, it is unclear whether they could preserve the religious aspects of their programs -- such as Bible studies, prayer meetings, or parenting classes **based** on religious teachings.

[25] Without religious programs and religiously informed instruction, ministry leaders say their hands would be tied. "Many of the women we serve have experienced abuse and neglect. They often become hopeless, and they don't believe they're loved or valuable," says Peggy Hartshorn, president of Heartbeat International, an association of **crisis pregnancy** and maternity **centers**. "The biblical message we bring is that they were created unique and special, and there is something called **forgiveness**. And that's the key message these women often need to hear."^[24] ^[26] If **faith-based** maternity programs are not free to deliver that message, they are not likely to participate in government funding. "

Footnotes:

^[22] The 1996 Welfare Reform Act requires that minors live at home under adult supervision or in one of these maternity groups homes in order to receive benefits.

[23] Officials at Heartbeat International, a **Christian** association of **crisis pregnancy centers**, maternity homes, and nonprofit adoption agencies, estimates there are about 350 pro-life maternity homes nationwide, the vast majority of which are **faith-based**.

[24] Phone interview with Peggy Hartshorn, president of Heartbeat International, May 10, 2002.

[25] The legislative watershed was the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), included in the 1990 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. The CCDBG was reauthorized under the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, and no major changes were made to the language on religious providers. See E.J. Dionne and Ming Hsu Chen, eds., *Sacred Places, Civic Purposes* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institutions, 2001), pp. 216-34.

UPDATE! 2005

\$1B given to faith-based groups in 2003

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government gave more than \$1 billion in 2003 to organizations it considers "faith-based," with some going to programs where prayer and spiritual guidance are central and some to organizations that do not consider themselves religious at all.

Many of these groups have entirely secular missions and some organizations were surprised to find their names on a list of faith-based groups provided to The Associated Press by the White House.

"Someone has obviously designated us a faith-based organization, but we don't recognize ourselves as that," said Stacey Denaux, executive director of Crisis Ministries, a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Charleston, S.C.

Other grant recipients are religious, offering social service programs that the government may have deemed too religious to receive money before President Bush took office.

Visitors to TMM Family Services in Tucson, which received \$25,000 for housing counseling, are greeted by a photo of Jesus and quotes from the Bible.

"We believe that people being connected to the faith of their choice is important to them having a productive life," said Don Strauch, an ordained minister and executive director of the group, which offers a variety of social services. "Just because we take government money doesn't mean we back down on that philosophy."

All told, faith-based organizations were awarded \$1.17 billion in 2003. That is about 12% of the \$14.5 billion spent on social programs that qualify for faith-based grants in five federal departments. White House officials expect the total to grow.

The list of 2003 grant recipients provided to AP is the first detailed tally of the dollars behind this "faith-based initiative."

Elected with strong support of religious conservatives, Bush came to office promising to open government's checkbook to religious groups that provide social services. Often, Bush says, religious groups do a better job serving the poor.

Civil libertarians fear the government will wind up paying for worship, eroding the constitutional separation between church and state.

Jim Towey, who directs the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, said the Bush administration has been clear that "government money is not to fund religious activities."

"This is a culture change in the way government provides social services," he said. "There's always going to be a very delicate balance."

In the past, government has refrained from giving money directly to religious groups, but has required that they set up independent, secular organizations to get taxpayer dollars. Bush tried to get Congress to change that. Congress refused, so he unilaterally put many of his changes into effect.

To entice religious groups to apply for grants, the White House hosted several conferences explaining the relaxed rules and put out a book listing programs they might want to apply for.

"We feel much more at ease," said Louis Wonderly, past president of the Luther House Foundation of Southern Chester County, Pa. The group was awarded \$10.3 million to build an apartment building for low-income older people.

"We won't have to say, 'Oh my goodness, is it terrible to have a cross hanging on a bulletin board?'" Wonderly said.

It is unclear how much religion is too much religion when government money is involved. The courts have issued mixed rulings. The administration says a group getting federal money can sponsor worship and other religious activities as long as they are separated by time and location from activities paid by the government.

In New Haven, Conn., Women in Search of Health Education and Spirituality got almost \$500,000 to help AIDS patients who are just out of drug treatment. Each session begins with a daily affirmation, where each participant chooses something to read, religious or secular.

The program's director, Patricia Lafayette, says a spiritual connection is emphasized. "Generally, that's the key to recovery," she said.

"We pray anytime someone asks," added Joyce Poole, director of the AIDS Interfaith Network, which sponsors the program. "Some clients walk

in and say they need a prayer and a hug and we stop whatever we're doing for them."

At the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., Life Connections got more than \$50,000 to help inmates who are about to be freed and who volunteer to participate and pick one of six religious programs to follow. Activities include a two-week spiritual retreat and six weeks of intense religious study. The White House declined comment on whether these particular programs were appropriate.

The grants on the White House list were not specifically targeted to religious organizations. Rather, the list includes all groups believed to be faith-based that won competitive federal grants open to all applicants.

Specifically, it includes recipients of competitive grants administered by five federal departments: Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Labor and Justice. Not included are the billions sent to the states for distribution.

An AP analysis of the \$1.17 billion and nearly 150 interviews in 30 states with grant recipients found: Many are well-established, large social service providers that have received federal money for decades. More than 80% of recipients at HHS had received federal money before. At HUD, the figure was 93%.

- Two programs account for half of the \$1.17 billion total: A HUD program known as Section 202 that builds housing for low-income poor people, and Head Start, a large preschool program for poor children. Both of them are dominated by longtime grant recipients that able to handle large amounts of money — not the small church groups sometimes evoked by the White House.
- Many organizations insist they do not belong on a list of "faith-based organizations," even though they may have religious roots.

Some have no connection at all to religion, such as You Gotta Believe!, a Brooklyn, N.Y.-based group that finds permanent homes for teenagers in foster care. The name is not intended to invoke a belief in God, but the belief that there is a home somewhere for every child. White House officials said the list included groups which had identified themselves as faith-based and groups which officials thought religious based on their names. "We intentionally avoid references to God and his works in our educational material so that no one will feel intimidated or avoid our services because they're of a different religion," said Sue Ortiz, a home ownership counselor at Inner City Christian Federation in Grand Rapids, Mich., which got \$65,000 in 2003 and \$150,000 in 2004. But religion inspires their work, she said: "We do what we do because of God's love."

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